

SECURITY INFORMATION

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PSYCHOLOGICAL STRATEGY BOARD
WASHINGTON, D. C.

August 19, 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable
David K. Bruce
Under Secretary of State

The Honorable
William C. Foster
Deputy Secretary of Defense

General Walter B. Smith
Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Social Science Research

25X1A As you will remember, one of the first things which concerned [redacted] when he became Director of PSB, was the contribution to winning the cold war being made by research in the social sciences. He felt, as do I, that our efforts over the coming years to avoid a continuing military stalemate with the USSR, will depend in large part upon our success in developing novel, non-military means of changing the intentions of the present regime in the USSR, or in bringing about a situation in which it can be supplanted. Since according to present evidence these means are yet to be conceived, it is essential that we direct our research effort coherently along the most promising lines.

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As a result of [redacted] concern, [redacted] was retained to prepare a study for the purpose of suggesting any changes which might be made within the government to improve the usefulness of this type of research. After six months' investigation [redacted] last April, completed a report in which he summarized his findings, drew conclusions from these findings and made recommendations for such changes. Although in final form, this report was not submitted to the Board, pending staff discussions with CIA regarding the propriety of including information as to CIA's expenditures in this field. It was decided not to include this information but General Smith volunteered that he would satisfy any questions which the other Board members may have on this subject.

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You will note that the report recommends, in effect, the delegation to PSB of the responsibility for bringing about coordination in this field. Although this suggestion has merit, I am not convinced that it provides the best solution. Certainly organized interdepartmental coordination is called for. However, this might well be better carried out under one of the other alternatives in [redacted] report, and I make no recommendation on this point.

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[redacted]
Director

Enclosure:

1. PSB D-32, Report on
Social Science Research
in Cold War Operations.
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